10

15

## What is claimed is:

1. A personal information management apparatus which electronically manages personal information of a user, comprising:

a personal information database selection unit selecting a personal information database based on predetermined rules from a personal information storage unit including a plurality of personal information databases respectively storing personal information about different situations of a user; and

a processing unit processing the personal information database selected by said personal information database selection unit such that the personal information can be read and written.

- 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising
- 20 a clock unit outputting current time data, wherein

said rules are defined based on the time data output by said clock unit.

25 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further

comprising

a transmission/reception unit, provided in a network, transmitting and receiving data to and from an information processing terminal through the network, wherein

said personal information database selection unit selects the personal information database through the network, or directly selects the personal information database.

10

15

20

5

- 4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said rules are defined based on information received by said transmission/reception unit about access path in the network from the information processing terminal.
- 5. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said rules are defined based on information received by said transmission/reception unit and designating the information processing terminal.
- 6. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a status information input unit inputting any
user status information in user status information

containing a situation of a user and a status of a user, wherein

said rules are defined according to user status information input through said status information input unit.

- 7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
- a personal information nonmatching detection

  unit detecting a difference in personal information

  of predetermined items common to two personal

  information databases stored in said personal

  information storage unit; and
- a personal information nonmatching

  15 notification unit notifying of the difference detected by said personal information nonmatching detection unit.
- 8. The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising
  - a personal information synchronization unit amending one piece of different personal information detected by said personal information nonmatching detection unit to match the other piece.

10

15

20

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a personal information nonmatching detection unit detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit; and

a personal information synchronization unit amending one piece of different personal information detected by said personal information nonmatching detection unit to match the other piece.

10. A personal information managing method which electronically manages personal information of a user, comprising:

selecting a personal information database based on predetermined rules from a personal information storage unit including a plurality of personal information databases respectively storing personal information about different situations of a user; and

processing the selected personal information database such that the personal information can be read and written.

11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

outputting current time data; wherein the rules are defined based on the output time data.

12. The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

transmitting and receiving data to and from an information processing terminal through a network; wherein

the personal information database is selected through the network, or the personal information database is directly selected.

15

10

5

13. The method according to claim 12,

the rules are defined based on received information about an access path in the network from the information processing terminal.

20

14. The method according to claim 12,

the rules are defined based on received information designating the information processing terminal.

25

10

20

15. The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

inputting any user status information in user status information containing a situation of a user and a status of a user; wherein

said rules are defined according to the input user status information.

16. The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit; and

notifying of the detected difference.

17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising:

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other piece.

18. The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

detecting a difference in personal information

of predetermined items common to two personal

information databases stored in said personal information storage unit; and

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other piece.

5

10

15

19. A computer-readable storage medium storing a personal information management program used to direct a computer for electronically managing personal information of a user to perform the functions of:

selecting a personal information database based on predetermined rules from a personal information storage unit including a plurality of personal information databases respectively storing personal information about different situations of a user; and

processing the selected personal information database such that the personal information can be read and written.

20

20. The storage medium according to claim 19, further comprising the function of outputting current time data, wherein

said rules are defined based on the output time data.

- 21. The storage medium according to claim 19, further comprising the function of transmitting and receiving data to and from an information processing terminal through a network, wherein
- data is transmitted and received to and from an information processing terminal through a network; and

said personal information database is selected through the network, or said personal information database is directly selected.

- 22. The storage medium according to claim 21, wherein
- said rules are defined based on received information about an access path in the network from the information processing terminal.
- 23. The storage medium according to claim 21, wherein

said rules are defined based on received information designating the information processing terminal.

25 24. The storage medium according to claim 19,

10

15

20

further comprising inputting any user status information in user status information containing a situation of a user and a status of a user, wherein

said rules are defined according to the input user status information.

25. The storage medium according to claim 19, further comprising detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit, wherein said detected difference is notified of.

26. The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising:

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other piece.

27. The storage medium to claim 19, further comprising:

detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit; and

amending one piece of the detected different

10

15

personal information to match the other piece.

28. A personal information management program used to direct a computer for electronically managing personal information of a user to perform the functions of:

selecting a personal information database based on predetermined rules from a personal information storage unit including a plurality of personal information databases respectively storing personal information about different situations of a user; and

processing the selected personal information database such that the personal information can be read and written.

- 29. The program according to claim 28, further comprising the function of outputting current time data, wherein
- 20 said rules are defined based on the output time data.
- 30. The program according to claim 28, further comprising function the of transmitting and 25 receiving data to and from an information

processing terminal through a network, wherein

data is transmitted and received to and from an information processing terminal through a network; and

- said personal information database is selected through the network, or said personal information database is directly selected.
- 31. The program according to claim 30, wherein

  10 said rules are defined based on received information about an access path in the network from the information processing terminal.
- 32. The program according to claim 30, wherein

  said rules are defined based on received information designating the information processing terminal.
- 33. The program according to claim 28, further comprising inputting any user status information in user status information containing a situation of a user and a status of a user, wherein

said rules are defined according to the input user status information.

20

34. The program according to claim 28, further comprising detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit, wherein

said detected difference is notified of.

35. The program according to claim 34, further comprising:

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other piece.

36. The program according to claim 28, further comprising:

detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit; and

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other piece.

37. A personal information management apparatus which electronically manages personal information of a user, comprising:

25 personal information database selection means

10

for selecting a personal information database based on predetermined rules from personal information storage means including a plurality of personal information databases respectively storing personal information about different situations of a user; and

processing means for processing the personal information database selected by said personal information database selection means such that the personal information can be read and written.